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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: September 24, 1957

SUBJECT: GUATEMALA: Conversation with Francisco Anguiano

PARTICIPANTS: L - Mr. Loftus Becker, The Legal Adviser
Mr. Francisco Anguiano, formerly First Secretary of the Guatemalan Embassy, Washington
MID - Mr. Payard King, Guatemala Desk Officer

COPIES TO: ARA, OLI(2), L-Mr. Becker, AmEmbassy, GUATEMALA

714.00/9-2457

DECLASSIFICATION DATE 6/4/75
PER Embrey OFFICE ARA
FADRC FOI CASE NO. 5-B-201

Mr. Becker received Mr. Anguiano, who was recently discharged from his position at the Guatemalan Embassy, at the request of Mr. Darwin Brown, an attorney for the Embassy. Mr. Anguiano submitted a long memorandum representing his views concerning the present political situation in Guatemala. The gist of this memorandum was that the candidacy of the MDN presidential candidate, Miguel Ortiz Passarelli, was being supported by a group of opportunist colonels in the Guatemalan Army and was very unpopular with the people. It stated that General Manuel Ydigoras Fuentes was the one who enjoyed the support of the majority of the Guatemalan people, and who alone could prevent the country from lapsing back into chaos and communism. Ortiz, the memorandum stated, was a weakling who would be manipulated by the opportunist colonels. It alleged that although there was no definite proof, "almost everybody" in Guatemala blamed the army and the MDN for the assassination of President Castillo Armas, and that "the majority of the conscientious citizens of Guatemala would welcome the friendly persuasion of U.S. officials to bring about a peaceful and 'correct' solution of the current political crisis." The memorandum strongly criticized "dissatisfied and ambitious" MDN leaders, including Guatemalan Ambassador Cruz Salazar.

After reading the memorandum, Mr. Becker and Mr. King commented that to favor any one candidate, or to attempt to influence directly the election in Guatemala would constitute a violation of the Department's policy of non-intervention in the internal affairs of other countries. Mr. Anguiano said he knew this, but he wanted to make his position clear.

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Mr. Anguiano then said that he had been appointed by General Ydigoras Fuentes to raise funds in the United States for the General's political campaign. He asked Mr. Becker whether the Department could suggest anyone who could help him to obtain campaign contributions for Ydigoras. Mr. Becker said that the obvious donors would be those having business interests in Guatemala. It was firmly established Department policy that American citizens in foreign countries should not support political organizations in such countries or in any way participate in their internal political affairs. Obviously, it would be inappropriate for the Department to lend its aid to fund raising on behalf of any Presidential candidate in Guatemala. Mr. Anguiano said that he understood and that he "withdrew" his question.

There followed a general exposition by Mr. Anguiano of his own estimate of the present political situation in Guatemala including the statement that he had had three hour-long interviews with Col. Juan Francisco Oliva. On departing Mr. Anguiano said that he might, during the coming weeks of the campaign, get in touch with Mr. Becker and Mr. King again.

ARA:MID:EKing/L-LKBecker:tag:9/25/57

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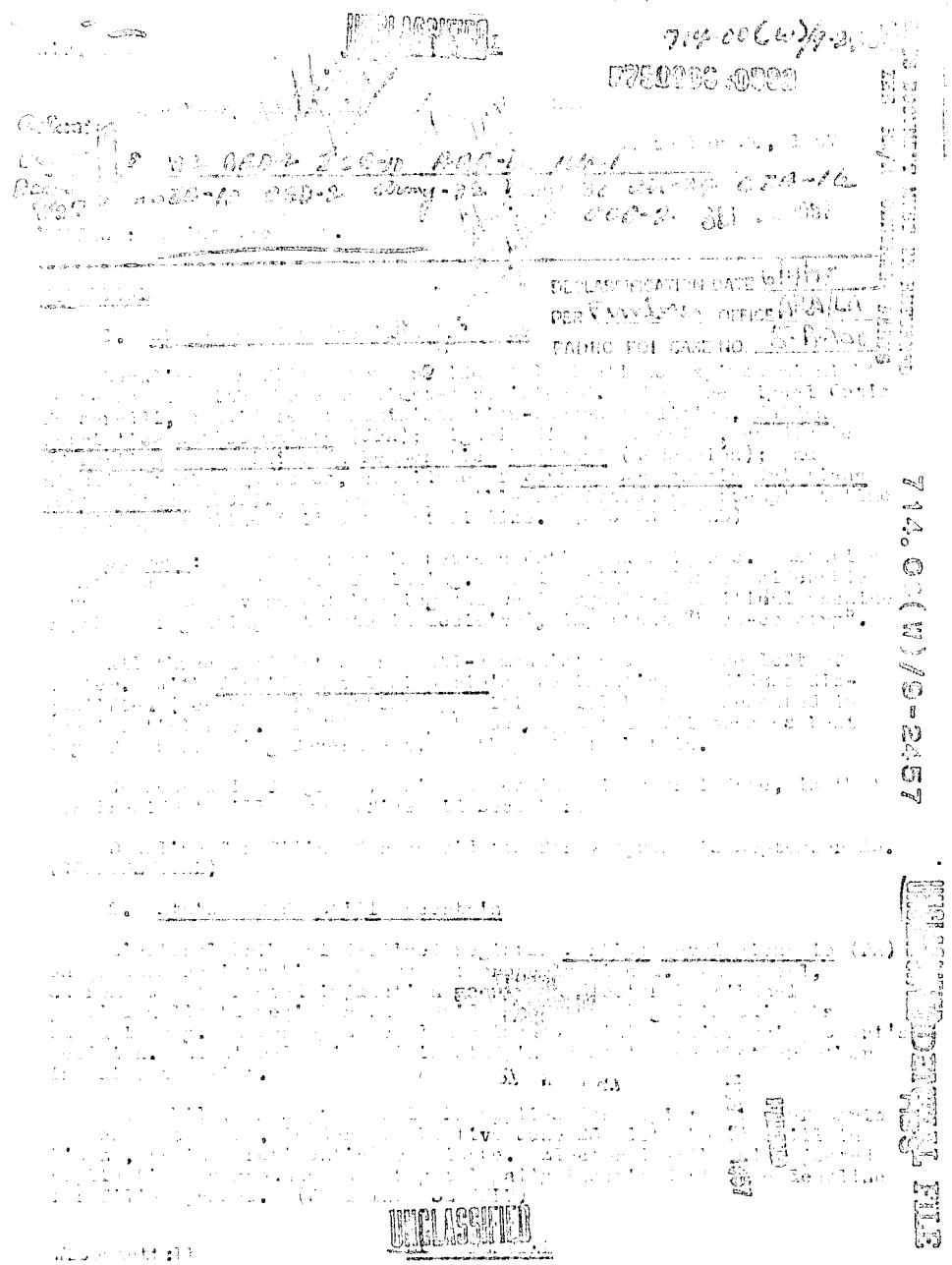

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